[11th December 1959

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Ten copies of the Report of the Special Officer for Reorganisation have been placed in the Library of the Legislature Department. The departments concerned are examining the recommendations and issuing orders. This examination has not yet been completed in respect of all the recommendations.

Rice

* 130 Q.—SRI P. U. SHANMUGHAM : கனம் உள் விவகார அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் தயவு செய்து கீழ்க்கண்ட கேள்விக்கு பதிலளிப்பாரா—

1958-59-ம் ஆண்டில் அரிசி விலை, உற்பத்தி எவ்வளவு?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The wholesale price of the common varieties of rice (2nd sort) during the year 1958–59 ranged from Rs. 17 to Rs. 24 per maund.

According to the final forecast prepared by the Director of Statistics, te estimated production of rice during 1958–59 is 32·98 lakhs tons.

Fair Price Shops

* 131 Q.—SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state who are eligible to run the Fair Price Shops in the City of Madras?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Under the present Fair Price Rice Shops Scheme introduced with effect from the 15th July 1959, the District Co-operative Societies have to conduct Fair Price Shops themselves or recognise suitable Primary Co-operative Stores or societies or individuals as their retail agents.

Accordingly 335 Fair Price Shops are functioning, at present, in Madras City run by the branches of the T.U.C.S. and certain other selected co-operatives and individuals.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Sir, May I know why merchants who are already dealing with grocery and other articles of food are not given permission or licence to run the fair price shops?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, the policy of the Government is that in the matter of licensing fair price shops it should be done as far as possible through co-operative organisation.

MR. SPEAKER : Whenever, the Hon. Ministers revised their answers, I would request them to send a copy of the revised answer. The answer that I now have is quite different from the one read by the Hon. Minister. If I do not have a copy of the revised answer, I will not be aware of what the Ministers are telling.